

Dublin May 16. 1858.

Dear Lucia Weston - I had a letter from Paris today saying that the whole Roman tribe were expected the following day & that the French tribe ~~parties~~ were all in a state of delighted expectation. So should I be, if I were with them, for what is more delicious than a reunion of two pleasant factions who rejoice in one another. This looks as if I were praising myself, but you know I only speak as a spectator. Who would not like to stand by when all the stars hang together?

I wish you would tell the handsome child's mother to consult with the gentleman about sending on that youth to run as soon as possible. He should be here by the 20<sup>th</sup> at latest or earlier if possible that I may have him washed & dressed & ready for presentation to the old gentleman who is to decide upon "his future." This admits of no delay.

You have no occasion whatever to apologise when writing to me. Every letter owes much to the imagination of the receiver, when it goes beyond the driest details of facts & business. I am often amused when told of my "pleasant" or "suffering" or "interesting" letter, when I can only remember that I felt as dry & bare as a stick while



penning it. When I was in Rome I learned  
to regard you <sup>first</sup> more as a loved relation  
than as one whom I had only heard of till  
then. Now I sympathize in all that concerns  
you as if you had been known to me since you  
were a baby. Perhaps it is because I am  
honest & impulsive that I have always been  
prompt to respond to the kindness & regard of  
others with prompt affection - but whether this  
be foolish & a defect, or not, as the English are  
apt to regard it, it is a fact, and accordingly  
I have no difficulty in looking into my  
niece's gallery and seeing you there along  
with the whole Roman tribe - and thinking of  
your remembered acts of kindness, which are all  
the more delightful inasmuch as they are so  
other family who could have gratified me  
so much by conferring them.

I wish to record to do my utmost for the youth  
when he comes but meantime I wish to tell  
if some useful person would see him before he is  
sent on, though he may be provided as <sup>far</sup> as  
possible with a presentable English suit of clothes.  
His substantial qualities I cannot doubt, but  
you know how much depends on appearance.

If you did not get the letter from me for some  
short time before you left Rome, this was  
due to the death of a dear old friend &  
schoolfellow, my only London acquaintance,  
Mr O'Neil - he used to forward it, his illness &  
death may have stopped the paper. If you wish



for it spurs the manuscript Paper in Paris, let  
me know how shall have them. I had a  
very pleasant letter from Mr Chapman  
lately, full of good cheer & another from  
Miss McKim which last you shall see in  
the Advocate

I am just now making selection from  
Stirling's "Letters from the Slave States", one of the  
best (that is the most well informed & anti-slavery)  
books of travels I have yet seen from the pen of  
an English (he is a Scotch) traveller. I like to be  
able to show these indications of a more intelligent  
than simply sentimental growth of opinion on this  
subject in great Britain.

I am sincerely & selfishly sorry that poor Emma  
continues so fearfully affected with the Strophobolus.  
It is the more lamentable as she has health, good  
spirits, five fingers including a thumb on each hand,  
& is really quite passably gifted with talent &  
fluency. It is a great mystery!

With my best wishes for all the rest of your  
tribe (including even the unhappy afflicted) I  
am yours ever truly

Richd D Webb

You will please see to the message with as little  
delay as possible



I have taken the Heterospiromania from Miss  
Ettles, have bought a stereoscope than got many  
good Roman slides & then in some beautiful  
set. I would like to know at any time at  
your lecture whether good slides are to be had  
in Paris whether any publisher has a list  
of them & how they are sold. Probably they  
may be as good and as cheap in London if  
a body knew where to find them.

Miss Ettles has lately been spending three  
weeks with us in Dublin and as Miss Wigham  
was with his father at the same time, she enjoyed  
her visit very much and so did we.